

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A latching assembly for a door of a motor vehicle having a main electric power supply and a striker, said latching assembly comprising:
 - a ratchet selectively rotatable with the striker to latch and unlatch the door;
 - a pawl selectively engagable with said ratchet to selectively prevent said ratchet from rotating;
 - a motor electrically connected to the main electric power supply and operatively connected to said pawl for pivoting said pawl into and out of engagement with said ratchet; and
 - a backup battery disposed adjacent said motor for supplying electric power when said motor is disconnected from the main electric supply.
2. A latching assembly as set forth in claim 1 including a capacitive element for storing a charge for immediate discharge when said motor is disconnected from the main electric supply.
3. A latching assembly as set forth in claim 2 including a voltage sensor for sensing the voltage provided by the main electric power.
4. A latching assembly as set forth in claim 3 including a converter for charging and maintaining said capacitive element.
5. A latching assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said converter is a DC/DC converter.
6. A latching assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said capacitive element includes a plurality of capacitors.
7. A latching assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a microcontroller for monitoring said plurality of capacitors.